

person committed such violation in disregard of such provision or regulation;

(ii) assess against such person a civil penalty of not more than \$50,000 for each violation if the Secretary determines that the person should have known that the action constituted a violation; or

(iii) assess against such person a civil penalty of not more than \$500,000 if the Secretary determines that the person committed such violation willfully.

(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), if the Secretary of Commerce finds, on the record and after an opportunity for a hearing, that a person has violated, on or after June 1, 1993, any provision of sections 620 to 620j of this title or any regulation issued under sections 620 to 620j of this title relating to the export of unprocessed timber originating from public lands (whether or not the violation caused the export of unprocessed timber from public lands in violation of sections 620 to 620j of this title), the Secretary may assess against such person a civil penalty to the same extent as the Secretary concerned may impose a penalty under clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A).

(ii) Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to unprocessed timber originating from public lands in a State that is administering and enforcing a program under section 620c(d) of this title.

(C) MITIGATION OF PENALTIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned—

(I) in determining the applicability of any penalty imposed under this paragraph, shall take into account all relevant mitigating factors, including mistake, inadvertence, and error; and

(II) based on any mitigating factor, may, with respect to any penalty imposed under this paragraph—

(aa) reduce the penalty;

(bb) not impose the penalty; or

(cc) on condition of there being no further violation under this paragraph for a prescribed period, suspend imposition of the penalty.

(ii) CONTRACTUAL REMEDIES.—In the case of a minor violation of sections 620 to 620j of this title (including a regulation), the Secretary concerned shall, to the maximum extent practicable, permit a contracting officer to redress the violation in accordance with the applicable timber sale contract rather than assess a penalty under this paragraph.

(3) Penalties not exclusive; judicial review

A penalty assessed under this subsection shall not be exclusive of any other penalty provided by law and shall be subject to review in an appropriate United States district court.

(d) Administrative remedies

(1) Debarment

(A) In general

Subject to subparagraph (B), the head of the appropriate Federal department or agency under sections 620 to 620j of this title may

debar any person who violates sections 620 to 620j of this title, or any regulation or contract issued under sections 620 to 620j of this title, from entering into any contract for the purchase of unprocessed timber from Federal lands for a period of not more than 5 years. Such person shall also be precluded from taking delivery of Federal timber purchased by another party for the period of debarment.

(B) Prerequisites for debarment

(i) In general

No person may be debarred from bidding for or entering into a contract for the purchase of unprocessed timber from Federal lands under subparagraph (A) unless the head of the appropriate Federal department or agency first finds, on the record and after an opportunity for a hearing, that debarment is warranted.

(ii) Withholding of awards during debarment proceedings

The head of an appropriate Federal department or agency may withhold an award under sections 620 to 620j of this title of a contract for the purchase of unprocessed timber from Federal lands during a debarment proceeding.

(2) Cancellation of contracts

The head of the appropriate Federal department or agency under sections 620 to 620j of this title may cancel any contract entered into with a person found to have violated sections 620 to 620j of this title or regulations issued under sections 620 to 620j of this title.

(e) Exception

Subsections (c) and (d) of this section do not apply to violations of section 620i of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-382, title IV, § 492, Aug. 20, 1990, 104 Stat. 722; Pub. L. 103-45, § 3, July 1, 1993, 107 Stat. 226; Pub. L. 105-83, title VI, § 603, Nov. 14, 1997, 111 Stat. 1620.)

AMENDMENTS

1997—Subsec. (c)(2)(C). Pub. L. 105-83, § 603(1), added subpar. (C).

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 105-83, § 603(2), inserted subpar. (A) designation and heading, substituted “Subject to subparagraph (B), the head” for “The head”, and added subpar. (B).

1993—Subsec. (a)(3), (4). Pub. L. 103-45, § 3(a), added pars. (3) and (4).

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 103-45, § 3(b)(1), designated existing provisions as subpar. (A) and added subpar. (B).

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 103-45, § 3(b)(2), designated existing provisions as subpar. (A), redesignated former subpars. (A) to (C) as cls. (i) to (iii) of subpar. (A), and added subpar. (B).

§ 620e. Definitions

For purposes of sections 620 to 620j of this title:

(1) The term “acquire” means to come into possession of, whether directly or indirectly, through a sale, trade, exchange, or other transaction, and the term “acquisition” means the act of acquiring.

(2) The term “Federal lands” means lands that are owned by the United States, but does not include any lands the title to which is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual,

(B) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the United States against alienation, or

(C) held by any Native Corporation as defined in section 1602 of title 43.

(3) **MINOR VIOLATION.**—The term “minor violation” means a violation, other than an intentional violation, involving a single contract, purchase order, processing facility, or log yard involving a quantity of logs that is less than 25 logs and has a total value (at the time of the violation) of less than \$10,000.

(4) **NORTHWESTERN PRIVATE TIMBER OPEN MARKET AREA.**—The term “northwestern private timber open market area” means the State of Washington.

(5) The term “person” means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity and includes any subsidiary, subcontractor, or parent company, and business affiliates where 1 affiliate controls or has the power to control the other or when both are controlled directly or indirectly by a third person.

(6) The term “private lands” means lands held or owned by a person. Such term does not include Federal lands or public lands, or any lands the title to which is—

(A) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual,

(B) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the United States against alienation, or

(C) held by any Native Corporation as defined in section 1602 of title 43.

(7) The term “public lands” means lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States, that are held or owned by a State or political subdivision thereof, or any other public agency. Such term does not include any lands the title to which is—

(A) held by the United States;

(B) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual,

(C) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the United States against alienation, or

(D) held by any Native Corporation as defined in section 1602 of title 43.

(8) The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to Federal lands administered by that Secretary; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior with respect to Federal lands administered by that Secretary.

(9)(A) The term “unprocessed timber” means trees or portions of trees or other roundwood not processed to standards and specifications suitable for end product use.

(B) The term “unprocessed timber” does not include timber processed into any one of the following:

(i) Lumber or construction timbers, except Western Red Cedar, meeting current American Lumber Standards Grades or Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau Export R or N

list grades, sawn on 4 sides, not intended for remanufacture.

(ii) Lumber, construction timbers, or cants for remanufacture, except Western Red Cedar, meeting current American Lumber Standards Grades or Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau Export R or N list clear grades, sawn on 4 sides, not to exceed 12 inches in thickness.

(iii) Lumber, construction timbers, or cants for remanufacture, except Western Red Cedar, that do not meet the grades referred to in clause (ii) and are sawn on 4 sides, with wane less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of any face, not exceeding $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches in thickness.

(iv) Chips, pulp, or pulp products.

(v) Veneer or plywood.

(vi) Poles, posts, or piling cut or treated with preservatives for use as such.

(vii) Shakes or shingles.

(viii) Aspen or other pulpwood bolts, not exceeding 100 inches in length, exported for processing into pulp.

(ix) Pulp logs, cull logs, and incidental volumes of grade 3 and 4 sawlogs processed at domestic pulp mills, domestic chip plants, or other domestic operations for the primary purpose of conversion of the logs into chips, or to the extent that a small quantity of such logs are processed, into other products at domestic processing facilities.

(10) The acquisition of unprocessed timber from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States to be used in “substitution” for exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands means acquiring unprocessed timber from such Federal lands and engaging in exporting, or selling for export, unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the same geographic and economic area.

(11) **VIOLATION.**—The term “violation” means a violation of sections 620 to 620j of this title (including a regulation issued to implement sections 620 to 620j of this title) with regard to a course of action, including—

(A) in the case of a violation by the original purchaser of unprocessed timber, an act or omission with respect to a single timber sale; and

(B) in the case of a violation of a subsequent purchaser of the timber, an act or omission with respect to an operation at a particular processing facility or log yard.

(Pub. L. 101-382, title IV, §493, Aug. 20, 1990, 104 Stat. 723; Pub. L. 105-83, title VI, §604, Nov. 14, 1997, 111 Stat. 1621.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 620 to 620j of this title, referred to in par. (11), was in the original “this Act” and was translated as reading “this title”, meaning title IV of Pub. L. 101-382, Aug. 20, 1990, 104 Stat. 714, as amended, known as the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, which enacted sections 620 to 620j of this title and provisions set out as notes under section 620 of this title, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 620 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1997—Pars. (3) to (8). Pub. L. 105-83, §604(1), (2), added pars. (3) and (4) and redesignated former pars. (3) to (6)

as (5) to (8), respectively. Former pars. (7) and (8) redesignated (9) and (10), respectively.

Par. (9). Pub. L. 105-83, § 604(1), redesignated par. (7) as (9).

Par. (9)(B)(ix). Pub. L. 105-83, § 604(3), substituted “Pulp logs, cull logs, and incidental volumes of grade 3 and 4 sawlogs” for “Pulp logs or cull logs” and inserted “primary” before “purpose” and “, or to the extent that a small quantity of such logs are processed, into other products at domestic processing facilities” before period at end.

Par. (10). Pub. L. 105-83, § 604(1), redesignated par. (8) as (10).

Par. (11). Pub. L. 105-83, § 604(4), added par. (11).

§ 620f. Regulations and review

(a) Regulations

(1) Agriculture and Interior

The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior shall, in consultation, each prescribe new coordinated and consistent regulations to implement sections 620 to 620j of this title on lands which they administer.

(2) Commerce

The Secretary of Commerce shall promulgate such rules and guidelines as may be necessary to carry out sections 620 to 620j of this title.

(3) Deadline

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in sections 620 to 620j of this title, regulations and guidelines required under this subsection shall be issued not later than June 1, 1998.

(B) The regulations and guidelines issued under sections 620 to 620j of this title that were in effect prior to September 8, 1995 shall remain in effect until new regulations and guidelines are issued under subparagraph (A).

(4) Painting and branding

(A) In general

The Secretary concerned shall issue regulations that impose reasonable painting, branding, or other forms of marking or tracking requirements on unprocessed timber if—

(i) the benefits of the requirements outweigh the cost of complying with the requirements; and

(ii) the Secretary determines that, without the requirements, it is likely that the unprocessed timber—

(I) would be exported in violation of sections 620 to 620j of this title; or

(II) if the unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands, would be substituted for unprocessed timber originating from private lands west of the 100th Meridian in the contiguous 48 States in violation of sections 620 to 620j of this title.

(B) Minimum size

The Secretary concerned shall not impose painting, branding, or other forms of marking or tracking requirements on—

(i) the face of a log that is less than 7 inches in diameter; or

(ii) unprocessed timber that is less than 8 feet in length or less than $\frac{1}{3}$ sound wood.

(C) Waivers

(i) In general

The Secretary concerned may waive log painting and branding requirements—

(I) for a geographic area, if the Secretary determines that the risk of the unprocessed timber being exported from the area or used in substitution is low;

(II) with respect to unprocessed timber originating from private lands located within an approved sourcing area for a person who certifies that the timber will be processed at a specific domestic processing facility to the extent that the processing does occur; or

(III) as part of a log yard agreement that is consistent with the purposes of the export and substitution restrictions imposed under sections 620 to 620j of this title.

(ii) Review and termination of waivers

A waiver granted under clause (i)—

(I) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be reviewed once a year; and

(II) shall remain effective until terminated by the Secretary.

(D) Factors

In making a determination under this paragraph, the Secretary concerned shall consider—

(i) the risk of unprocessed timber of that species, grade, and size being exported or used in substitution;

(ii) the location of the unprocessed timber and the effect of the location on its being exported or used in substitution;

(iii) the history of the person involved with respect to compliance with log painting and branding requirements; and

(iv) any other factor that is relevant to determining the likelihood of the unprocessed timber being exported or used in substitution.

(5) Reporting

(A) In general

Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary concerned shall issue regulations that impose reasonable documentation and reporting requirements if the benefits of the requirements outweigh the cost of complying with the requirements.

(B) Waivers

(i) In general

The Secretary concerned may waive documentation and reporting requirements for a person if—

(I) an audit of the records of the facility of the person reveals substantial compliance with all notice, reporting, painting, and branding requirements during the preceding year; or

(II) the person transferring the unprocessed timber and the person processing the unprocessed timber enter into an advance agreement with the Secretary concerned regarding the disposition of the unprocessed timber by domestic processing.